

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 7, 2021**

**Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance**

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via a Zoom Virtual Public Meeting due to state and federal quarantine restrictions from the coronavirus. Mr. Sampogna stated that Council had just held an Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters in both the Police Department and Public Works Department as well as some legal matters.

Mr. Sampogna said that the link to view the meeting and the agenda had been publicized via the Green Tree website, Facebook, Twitter, and the weekly email from Green Tree Borough. He noted that citizens wishing to speak during the Hearing of the Citizens portion of the meeting should use the "Raise Hand" feature on the Zoom program. Individuals will be called upon in the order they indicated they wished to speak. The meeting was being recorded for transcription purposes.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Edward Schenck, Mayor  
Mark Sampogna, President  
Rino Lindsey  
David Lorenzini  
John Novak  
Ron Panza  
David Rea  
Arthur Tintori

**Also Present:**

Judy Miller, Borough Manager  
Kate Diersen, Esq., Borough Solicitor  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**May 3, 2021 and May 10, 2021**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve both the May 3, 2021 and the May 10, 2021 minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

- A.** Mayor Schenck stated that two young men in the Green Tree community recently received their Eagle Scout Awards, Mr. Oliver Casadei, son of Corrine and Louis Casadei, and Mr. Daniel O'Brien, son of Samantha and Martin O'Brien. There was a ceremony held in Hale Park on May 15, which Mayor Schenck attended. He wished these young men well in their future endeavors.
- B.** Mayor Schenck said he had attended the American Legion's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial and fire hall.

- C. Mayor Schenck reported that Green Tree Officer Kevin Diamond, along with Chief Colin Cleary and his wife, ran with officers from five other agencies in the South Hills, to support the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. They raised over \$1,000 for Special Olympics.
- D. The Mayor said that Chief Cleary met with citizens at the gazebo for Coffee With A Cop last Saturday.
- E. Mayor Schenck said he and the Chief had attended two Public Safety Committee meetings in May.
- F. Mayor Schenck said it has been over a year since Council and the Mayor have been holding its meetings via Zoom. It is hoped that Council meetings will be able to be held in person in the near future.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna**

- A. Mr. Sampogna said he attended the Three Rivers Wet Weather Working Group meeting. Ms. Kim Kennedy, ALCOSAN's Director of Engineering, and Mike Lichte, ALCOSAN's Manager of Planning discussed the current and upcoming plant improvements. There will be an increase of secondary treatment capacity from 250 to 295 million gallons per day and adding a river wall extension to add real estate to their property, banks, and buildings. They also discussed future improvements including the substation modification CSO-related bypass disinfection, the award of the Eastworks expansion to 600 million gallons per day, improvements to the centrifuges to thicken the sludge, a new parking garage and lab facilities, new primary sedimentation tanks, and a new wastewater pump extension. Contracts totaling \$232 million for some of this work have been awarded.

Mr. Sampogna said other future off-site ALCOSAN work includes 16.4 miles of tunnels to be constructed. Each of the three tunnels will be approximately 5.5 miles long and 18 feet in diameter. Chartiers Creek and Saw Mill Run tunnels, which are part of the Ohio River tunnel will each be 14 feet in diameter. Construction of these tunnels will take place in 2025 through 2029 and the terminus of Ohio River tunnel at the plant will be 150 feet deep.

- B. Mr. Sampogna said that he helped, along with State Rep. Deasy and State Senator Fontana and members of their staffs, with the Shredding Back/Drug Take Back Day at Green Tree Park. It was a very busy morning.
- C. Mr. Sampogna said he attended the ALCOSAN's advisory meeting on May 25th where a reminder was given to all municipalities that had previously received GROW Grants to provide a video every five years to ALOCOSAN of the ongoing improvements made from GROW grant funds. ALCOSAN introduced an updated data site that will go online soon.
- D. Mr. Sampogna said that CONNECT held its first in-person meeting in over a year in South Park. A member of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation gave a presentation on the nine county parks and recent improvements that have been completed or are underway, including solar-powered roadway lights along Corrigan Drive in South Park as well as renovations to the Cascades. County Park Rangers are available to do programs within communities and Green Tree has already booked a few of these programs.

Also discussed at the CONNECT meeting was a Tri-Borough Solar Co-op. This is a co-op that was initially available to only residents in Etna, Millvale, and Sharpsburg, but is now available to

residents throughout Allegheny County, including Green Tree. The co-op's goal is to decrease the cost and increase the understanding of residential solar energy systems by combining purchasing power and expertise. Residents who are considering converting their homes to solar energy should contact the borough office for a link to the website and an online information session on June 29th.

A CONNECT meeting with the Materials Management Subcommittee of the Energy and Environmental Working Group was held on June 3rd. A new video will be sent to each Council member later this month regarding recycling in the region.

- E. Mr. Sampogna reported that Green Tree Borough would be receiving \$505,761.64 from the federal government through the American Recovery Plan Act. This amount will be paid in two payments with the first payment occurring within the next 30 to 60 days and the second will be paid 12 months later. There are restrictions regarding the use of these funds, such as water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, supporting public health expenditures, addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, or replacing public sector revenue lost due to the pandemic. Mr. Sampogna thanked the borough's representatives for passing this legislation.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**A. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

- 1. Mr. Lindsey said that the Public Safety Committee had met several times since the last Council meeting and plan to meet often over the next several months to discuss several challenges that need to be addressed.
- 2. The specifications for the new pumper truck for the Fire Company have not yet been finalized, but should be completed soon and put out to bid.
- 3. Mr. Lindsey stated that the American Legion would be holding a Flag Day ceremony on June 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial and Fire Hall and the public is welcome to attend.

**B. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak**

**1. Casper Colosimo & Sons for sewer maintenance contract extension**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve a one-year extension to the existing Street and Sewer Maintenance Contract with Casper Colosimo & Son in accordance with the Borough Engineer's correspondence, dated June 4, 2021.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2. Mr. Novak reported that the Streets & Public Health Committee had met to discuss the Climate Action Plan. He had obtained copies of similar action plans for the committee to review along with a climate action pamphlet from the DEP. He learned that the three largest consumptions of energy are residential, commercial, and industrial. It is suggested that by 2025 the consumption of energy should be reduced by 26%. A DEP energy program specialist has provided Mr. Novak a survey to be completed by June 30th to

commit to participate in the program. Mr. Novak said the borough would not be penalized if it did not reach its proposed target.

Mr. Novak said that if the borough enters into this program it must provide a mission inventory and forecast. The borough had obtained this information in 2018 through CONNECT, which stated that Green Tree emits 85,471 tonnes of carbon dioxide. An emission reduction target would first require a review of the three largest energy expenditures. Then a climate action plan would have to be created for the borough with a focus group. The Borough Manager of Etna informed Mr. Novak that it would take at least a year to implement a plan and she recommended community engagement, an outreach segment, an online survey, education and preventative measures, and a project manager. Additionally, a climate action plan would have to be enacted by resolution and emission reductions would have to be monitored and verified.

Mr. Sampogna said that at a CONNECT meeting he had discussed this with an assistant from Carnegie Borough who asked if Green Tree would be interested in joining with them on this venture. He said he would provide Mr. Novak with the Carnegie representative's contact information.

#### **C. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea**

##### **1. Bid Award - Hemlock 2 Ball Field Outfield Reconstruction**

Mr. Rea said there have been drainage issues in the outfield of the Hemlock 2. Reconstruction of the outfield at Hemlock 2 was a budgeted item for 2021.

##### **Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Casper Colosimo & Son, Inc., in the amount of \$59,643.50 for the Hemlock 2 Ball Field Outfield Reconstruction Project - Option 1 in accordance with the Borough Engineer's correspondence dated May 20, 2021.**

Mr. Rea reported that the Hemlock 2 field would be closed for about 12 months for the reconstruction and for the new grass to root. The borough is working with the GAA on scheduling issues.

Mr. Lorenzini asked how much had been budgeted for this project in the budget. Mr. Rea replied that \$60,000 had been budgeted for the Hemlock 2 reconstruction.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Mr. Rea reported that Wilson Pool opened last weekend and has been well attended. The lifeguards and staff have been keeping everyone safe. He said it was good to see the community back together at the pool.

Mr. Rea said that the architect that was contracted for the future pool work did core boring samples to test. It is anticipated that the results will be available in the next few weeks.

3. Mr. Rea said that the Keystone Oaks School Administration completed their part of the easement regarding the sale of the property. The school board is now waiting on Council to approve its part of the easement. It is hoped that this will be finalized and closed by the end of the month and the property will then become an asset of Green Tree Borough.

When asked about the soccer field fencing, Ms. Miller said the borough was in the process of obtaining prices for fencing.

4. Mr. Rea stated that the borough has received several bids for cameras for Council Chambers so that Council meetings can be streamed online during in-person meetings. With the lightening of mask and occupancy guidelines this month, it appears that the borough should be able to resume in-person meetings in July.

Mr. Panza noted that the only mandate currently in effect is the mask mandate and the indoor meeting occupancy is currently permitted at 100%. Solicitor Diersen concurred that capacity limitations have been lifted and the only remaining mandate is the mask mandate.

Mr. Sampogna said he had discussed the camera proposals for streaming with Ms. Miller and she will be clarifying some of the details with the vendors as well as confirming the time required for installation of the equipment. The livestream will be a streamed, unmanned camera with one wide shot of the entire Council dais. Mr. Rea said those viewing the meeting via livestream would not be able to speak at the meeting. To comment at the Hearing of the Citizens, a citizen would have to be in attendance at the meeting itself. Mr. Rea suggested that the July meeting still be held in person even if the equipment for livestreaming is not operational. Mr. Sampogna agreed and said that the audio for the live feed would be coming directly from the sound system.

**D. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori**

**1. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the June 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$64,364.63, Payroll Account totaling \$190,194.05, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$3,623.48.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the July 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$118,984.38, and Capital Projects totaling \$323,891.17.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Ordinance #1845**

**Setting salary and benefits for Colin Cleary as Chief of Police**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve Ordinance #1845 setting salary and benefits of Colin Cleary as Chief of Police for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and thereafter unless repealed or amended by Council.**

Mr. Sampogna said he would not vote in favor of this ordinance because of an incident that occurred in 2017 in the Green Tree Police Department while one of the officers was attempting to transport a detainee to another facility. An officer was injured in this incident.

His injury was not severe, but resulted in him being off duty for some time. Potentially, however, there could have been a much more serious, disastrous outcome. This incident prompted a review of the department's policy on the handling of prisoners and the Chief was requested to submit a revised policy for Council's approval. A few weeks after this incident, the borough on its own initiative installed handcuff ports in the holding cell doors for the purpose of reducing risks to the officers while moving detainees in and out of the cells. This occurred over three and a half years ago. Since that time, the Public Safety Committee and the Mayor, on numerous occasions, have repeatedly requested and directed the Chief to submit a revised policy on the handling of prisoners that would include requiring officers to utilize the handcuff ports and make other safety-related changes to the prisoner-handling protocols. The Chief has steadfastly refused to comply with these directives and the old policy from 2006 remains in effect. Mr. Sampogna said that his "No" vote is based upon two reasons:

- 1) The Chief must be held accountable for failing to comply with a legitimate order from Council and the Mayor.
- 2) The policy needs to be updated to protect Green Tree's officers and their detainees.

Mayor Schenck said that this could be an issue of the glass being half full or half empty. He believes it is more than half full. Chief Cleary has taken on many patrol shifts and saved the borough tens of thousands of dollars. Chief Cleary attends Council meetings regularly and has been very visible to the public. He has given up vacation time and provides informed and professional reports. His work ethic has been unquestionable and his willingness to volunteer time is unquestionable. Mayor Schenck said that just this past week the Chief made himself available on a Saturday to meet with citizens and today he participated in a run to benefit Special Olympics. The Chief has stayed aware of public safety issues and the Public Safety Committee has been in touch with the Chief and the Mayor. Mayor Schenck said that although there has been a delay on this issue for various reasons, the Public Safety Committee has addressed the issue. Mayor Schenck said he would strongly recommend, based on his comments, that this ordinance be approved.

Mr. Sampogna stated that it has been three and a half years for the report and there should be accountability. Mayor Schenck stated that the Chief has been very accountable and has a well-run department with very few problems compared to some other police departments.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Tintori</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lorenzini</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Rea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Novak</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Sampogna</b>	<b>No</b>

**Motion carried, 6-1, with Mr. Sampogna voting "No."**

**E. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza**

- 1. Mr. Panza reported that the borough is almost back to normal with a large variety of recreational activities planned for the summer and recommended that residents check out the newsletter for the many events. There will be Concerts in the Park, crafting events,

adult softball, and more. The Recreation Department is doing a great job in trying to help things get back to normal.

**2. Appointment for two-year term to the Green Tree Library Board**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to appoint Joshua Stutzman to the Green Tree Library Board for a two-year term, expiring January 31, 2023.**

Mr. Sampogna said that Mr. Stutzman's application was included in a packet sent to Council earlier today.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Mr. Panza said that he was glad that the pool is operating smoothly so far this year. A resident recently contact Mr. Panza regarding the discontinuance of the rental of spaces at the pool to hold individual's lounge chairs. Mr. Panza asked if this service could be provided again. He said that he had suggested in 2017 that the pool purchase a number of lounge chairs for the pool. Other communities provide lounge chairs at their pools for their residents and providing chairs at the pool would prevent residents from having to carry their personal chairs back and forth. Instead of purchasing additional lounge chairs for the pool, it was decided to provide a secure area where residents could rent a space to store their chair at the pool for the duration of the summer. Last year this service could not be provided because of the pandemic, but Mr. Panza felt it should be provided once again.

Mr. Rea agreed that the chair storage policy be reinstated. He suggested that someone work with the pool manager to make sure it can be done, but felt it was probably just an oversight. Mr. Panza said he would let the resident know that the chair storage policy would most likely be reinstated.

**F. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini**

1. Mr. Lorenzini reported that the Zoning Hearing Board would be meeting on June 10th to review a request for a variance to the setback for the front of a resident's house. Planning Commission will be meeting on June 9th to discuss a proposed use for the former Crowne Plaza Hotel and also to discuss the possibility of updating Green Tree's Comprehensive Plan. The first Green Tree Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2010 and it is recommended that the plan be revised and updated every ten years. Members of the Planning Commission met with Ms. Miller and others last week to discuss this process. Planning Commission members believe that they could work on the revision of the plan without an outside consultant. Mr. Lorenzini asked Council if they agreed to Planning Commission beginning the review and revision of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Tintori said he had been on the original Comprehensive Plan Committee in 2009-2010 and felt that the outside consultants had been very helpful in guiding the group through the steps of establishing a plan. He said he would need to know the parameters of what the Planning Commission intended with their review. Ms. Miller said that this action would begin the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan. As their review continues, Planning Commission would come back to Council with updates. Utilizing outside consultants could be possible at a later time, but that would entail a larger discussion and future budgeting.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lorenzini made a motion to have the Green Tree Planning Commission begin a review and revision of the borough's Comprehensive Plan.**

Mr. Rea said that before effort is put into revising the Comprehensive Plan, Council should consider Peer Assessment from DCED and review borough administration and other borough departments and their policies to determine what improvements could be made. Mr. Rea suggested that Planning Commission could begin by reviewing what items had been undertaken that had been recommended in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Lorenzini said Planning Commission could review the current plan, remove items that have been addressed, review items that had not been addressed for their relevance, while adding other ideas for the future. Mr. Lorenzini said Planning Commission would like to have the support of Council in beginning this project.

Mr. Sampogna stated that Planning Commission is an independent body that could do whatever it wants, but they cannot spend money that is not approved by Council. If Planning Commission wishes to start a review of the Comprehensive Plan they can do so. The need for the assessment that Mr. Rea spoke about should be done, but Planning Commission can get started. Discussion continued regarding the handling of the previous Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Sampogna said it is clear that there is a consensus by Council to allow Planning Commission to begin the review at this point and a motion was not needed.

**There was no second on the motion so the motion fell to the floor and was not considered by Council at this time.**

2. Mr. Lorenzini reported that the DoubleTree Hotel had been purchased and will remain a hotel.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Char West COG - Mr. Novak**

Mr. Novak reported that Ms. Elizabeth DelGado, COG Treasurer, stepped down from the position. A new treasurer, Mr. Joe Bossano from Bridgeville, has been appointed.

**B. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board approved April financial reports. Circulation data shows that library use is recovering in both physical and online item checkouts. The library is partnering with the Heinz History Center to offer experience kits to the public for free admission in the upcoming weeks. The kits will offer admission for a family of four to any one of the following museums or attractions: Heinz History Center, Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, Fort Pitt Museum, Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Lincoln Highway Experience, McKeesport Regional History & Heritage Center, Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, Zelienople Historical Society Passavant House, Quecreek Mine Rescue Site, and the Captain William Vicary Mansion. Kits are available on a first come, first served basis with no renewals or holds. The kits are being made possible thanks to the Green Tree Historical Society's membership in the History Center's Affiliates Program.

The Library Board also discussed the library's Annual Used Book Sale, which was cancelled last year. A number of details still need to be worked out, but it is hoped that the sale will return this fall.

Mr. Sampogna said that he, the Library Director, Borough Manager, Borough Finance Director, and Library Board President met with Ms. Amy Gilligan who manages the Allegheny County Library Association's bookkeeping shared service program. There are currently 16 libraries utilizing this service, which is one-third of the ACLA libraries. It will cost \$4,600 per year for the Green Tree Public Library to take advantage of this service, but it help streamline the accounting and reporting process as was recommended by the auditor last year. The Library Board will discuss this issue at its June meeting.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Ms. Diersen**

Ms. Diersen had nothing to report at this time.

**MANAGER'S REPORT - Ms. Miller**

- A.** Ms. Miller said the pool is fully opened and passes may be purchased at the pool gate.
- B.** Ms. Miller said that part-time summer work is available with the Public Works Department this summer for applicants who are 18 and older.
- C.** Ms. Miller said that some residents are disappointed that the Summer Recreation Program was not held this year. However, the Recreation Director will try to supplement with additional programs for kids to do this summer. The Summer Rec Program will be back next summer.
- D.** Ms. Miller said that the administrative office is a little short staffed at this time. The office appreciates residents bringing code enforcement issues to the borough's attention and if a person can supply the address of an area needing review they can provide this information to the office and someone will take action on the issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Panza said that, in the past, the July and August Council meetings have always been denoted as business casual. He asked Mr. Sampogna is that would be the case this year as well. Mr. Sampogna replied said that business casual would be in effect for the July and August meetings. Mr. Rea stated that the next Council meeting would be held on the second Monday of July, July 12th, because of the Independent Day holiday the previous week.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mark Sampogna, President

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Judy Miller, Borough Manager